

Larkhill Church Day Nursery



Larkhill Christian Centre, Larkhill Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3HW

Inspection date

5 August 2015

Previous inspection date

29 September 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a safe and welcoming environment. Children enjoy their time at the nursery, where they build good relationships and learn through play.
- Staff plan a range of activities and experiences according to children's interests and learning needs.
- Effective partnerships with parents and other professionals enable staff to meet children's needs well. Parents say that they are very happy with the provision and that staff are friendly and approachable.
- Staff use a clear assessment system to monitor children's development and plan for the next steps in their learning. They share these with parents regularly.
- Management and staff have a good understanding of safeguarding children. They are clear about child protection issues and know the correct procedures to follow if they have concerns.
- Self-evaluation includes the views of staff, parents and children, and leads to improvements in children's experiences. For example, the provider is recruiting an early years teacher to help develop the quality of teaching and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use the outside area effectively to promote children's curiosity and learning fully.
- Staff do not always extend children's thinking through effective questioning as they join in their spontaneous play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve the use of the outside area to further encourage children to investigate, explore and extend their learning
- extend opportunities for children to think and build on what they know during their spontaneous play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection, and completed an interview with the manager and provider.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, which included children's progress records.
- The inspector took account of parents' views, obtained in person.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They provide a good range of play equipment and resources, arranged so that children make their own choices. Children are keen to take part in activities both adult-led and those they have chosen for themselves. At the inspection, children enjoyed using their senses to explore the texture and changing colours of a corn flour mixture. Others focused well on joining materials to make models, developing their physical skills as they used scissors to snip card and tape. Staff promote children's language skills as they join in their play; they describe what they are doing and name people and actions. Staff teach children to recognise their written names through daily routines and provide various opportunities to enable them to practise early writing skills. Children listen well to stories; staff use children's favourites to capture their interest and promote other areas of learning, such as counting and calculating.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff request details from parents about children's activities at home when they start to attend. This enables staff to follow young children's home routines and help them feel secure. Staff use effective methods to help children develop confidence and independence as they move on to the next group in the nursery or to school. Children learn to respect one another's feelings and differences through staff's good role modelling and planned activities. Staff regularly praise children's efforts and achievements, which helps boost their self-esteem. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. They offer a freshly cooked meal at lunchtimes and enable children to enjoy fresh air and exercise every day. Children develop increasing independence in personal hygiene and caring for themselves.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff communicate effectively and work well as a team to keep children safe and support their learning. The management team uses various methods to assess the quality of teaching, including regular staff supervisions. In addition, it uses more experienced or qualified staff to train others and model good practice. As a result, it has improved the baby area to enable young children to move around more freely as they become mobile. The provider has successfully addressed the actions set at the last inspection and introduced effective systems for monitoring children's progress, both individually and groups. This helps promote consistency and enables managers and staff to identify and address gaps in children's learning. Partnerships with parents are positive. Parents say that they feel involved in their children's progress and report how their children's confidence and language skills have grown since attending.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143105
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	993198
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Elim Church Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	29 September 2014
Telephone number	01935 424816

Larkhill Church Day Nursery registered in 1992. It operates from the Larkhill Christian Centre in Yeovil, Somerset. It is a Christian-based group, which has a church management committee who are also responsible for Elim Church Day Nursery based in the town centre. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 5.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs nine members of staff to work with the children, all of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager and deputy manager are qualified at levels 4 and 5.

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